



National Child Care Information Center

A service of the Child Care Bureau

243 Church Street NW, 2nd Floor
Vienna, Virginia 22180

Phone: (800) 616-2242 Fax: (800) 716-2242 TTY: (800) 516-2242

World Wide Web: <http://nccic.org>

NCCIC

DEVELOPING and IMPLEMENTING EARLY LEARNING GUIDELINES: THE CASE of RHODE ISLAND

The Early Learning Standards Project grew out of efforts to implement the 1998 Statewide school readiness initiative, Starting Right. The Department of Education and the Department of Human Services provide the leadership and support for the project. A State Level Steering Committee, with representatives from State agencies, Head Start, and Kids Count, provides overall direction and guidance to the project. The following document briefly describes the goals and activities of developing and implementing early learning guidelines in Rhode Island from 2001 to the present.

Early Learning Standards Project: Phase One (2001-2002)

Goals: ☼ Engage Partners ☼ Increase Public Awareness ☼ Develop Draft Standards

Two subcommittees were established to meet the goals of engaging partners, increasing public awareness, and developing draft standards.

1. The *Early Childhood Task Force* included individuals representing the diversity of the child care workforce. Over the course of eight months, this group developed the early learning guidelines.
2. The *Community Review Group* provided input at key points in the development process. Public meetings were also held to inform stakeholders and provide opportunities for feedback and comment on the draft standards.

After 10 months in development and a rigorous process of outreach, the final draft document was released in January 2002. For 4 year olds, the *Rhode Island Early Learning Standards, Final Draft* encompass eight domains of learning and development. Available on the Web at http://www.ridoe.net/child_family/earlychild/Childstandards.htm.

Early Learning Standards Project: Phase Two (2002-2003)

Goals: ☼ Pilot Use of Standards in Variety of Settings ☼ Evaluate Impact ☼ Disseminate Widely

The *Rhode Island Early Learning Standards, Final Draft*, were piloted in five communities around the State. Community-based groups of practitioners from center-based programs, family child care homes, public school programs, and Head Start, along with parents, participated in an eight-month professional development series. A mentor/facilitator assigned to each community guided implementation of the standards by aligning program curriculum and assessments with the standards. An evaluator assessed both the usefulness of the standards and the impact on practice with 100 early care and education providers. Family members were also included in the evaluation.

As a result of the pilot project, the guidelines were again reviewed and revised. The final version of the standards and a poster identifying the domains and key learning areas for quick referral by parents or staff were produced. Materials are available in both English and Spanish.

Goals:

- ✪ Develop Training Series
- ✪ Engage Families, Legislators, and State/Community Leaders
- ✪ Implement Statewide Training Plan

Goals:

- ✪ Develop Training Series
- ✪ Engage Families, Legislators, and State/Community Leaders
- ✪ Implement Statewide Training Plan

Goals:

- ✪ Develop Training Series
- ✪ Engage Families, Legislators, and State/Community Leaders
- ✪ Implement Statewide Training Plan

Goals:

- ✪ Develop Training Series
- ✪ Engage Families, Legislators, and State/Community Leaders
- ✪ Implement Statewide Training Plan

Goals:

- ✪ Develop Training Series
- ✪ Engage Families, Legislators, and State/Community Leaders
- ✪ Implement Statewide Training Plan

Goals:

- ✪ Develop Training Series
- ✪ Engage Families, Legislators, and State/Community Leaders
- ✪ Implement Statewide Training Plan

Goals:

- ✪ Develop Training Series
- ✪ Engage Families, Legislators, and State/Community Leaders
- ✪ Implement Statewide Training Plan

Goals:

- ✪ Develop Training Series
- ✪ Engage Families, Legislators, and State/Community Leaders
- ✪ Implement Statewide Training Plan

Goals:

- ✪ Develop Training Series
- ✪ Engage Families, Legislators, and State/Community Leaders
- ✪ Implement Statewide Training Plan